

Chinese Conversation Corner (Week 9, Semester 2, 2020)

中秋节

Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival

中秋节也称为月亮节或月饼节，在每年农历的 8 月 15 日，即公历的 9 月或 10 月初。2020 年的中秋节正好在公历 10 月 1 日，与中国国庆节是同一天。

The Mid-Autumn Festival is also called the Moon Festival or the Mooncake Festival. It traditionally falls on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese lunar calendar, which is in September or early October in the Gregorian calendar. In 2020, the Mid-Autumn Festival falls on October 1st (Thursday). This year it also happens to be the same day as China's National Day.

一、中秋节的历史起源 **Origins and History of China's Mid-Autumn Festival**

中秋节最早起源于三千多年前周朝时期的拜月习俗。在中国古代，很多皇帝每年都祭拜月亮。随后，这一习俗普及至普通百姓，并随着时间的流逝越来越流行。

The early form of the Mid-Autumn Festival was derived from the custom of moon worship during the Zhou Dynasty over 3,000 years ago. In ancient China, most emperors worshiped the moon annually. Gradually the custom was accepted by the masses and became more and more popular over time.

起源于周朝时期 Originated in the Zhou Dynasty	中国古代皇帝在秋天祭拜月亮，以祈求第二年带来大丰收。但是当时的“中秋”一词仅与时间和季节有关，节日的概念还不存在。 Ancient Chinese emperors worshiped the harvest moon in autumn as they believed that the practice would bring them a plentiful harvest the following year. At that time however, the term 'Mid-Autumn' was only related to the time and season, the festival didn't exist at that point.
唐代开始盛行 Became Popular in the Tang Dynasty	在唐代，赏月在达官贵族中很流行。富有的商人和官员也在庭院中举办赏月活动，品酒赏月，观看歌舞表演等。而普通百姓向月亮祈求丰收。在唐代后期，不仅有钱的商人和官员，而且普通百姓中也流行起赏月的习俗。



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	<p>In the Tang Dynasty, appreciating the moon became popular among the upper class. Following the emperors, rich merchants and officials also began to hold big parties in their courts. They drank and appreciated the bright moon. Music and dancing were also essential. Ordinary people also prayed to the moon for a good harvest. Later in the Tang Dynasty, not just the rich merchants and officials but also the ordinary citizens began appreciating the moon together.</p>
<p>宋代演变为节日 Became a Festival in the Song Dynasty</p>	<p>宋代开始，农历八月十五日定为“中秋节”。从那时起，赏月拜月成为中秋节的习俗。</p> <p>In the Song Dynasty, the 15th day of the 8th lunar month was established as the "Mid-Autumn Festival". From then on, worshipping the moon became very popular and has been a custom ever since.</p>
<p>元代开始吃月饼 Mooncakes Eaten from the Yuan Dynasty</p>	<p>吃月饼的习俗始于元代的蒙古王朝。那时起义军通过月饼传递了反抗蒙古人统治的消息。</p> <p>The tradition of eating mooncakes during the festival began in the Yuan Dynasty, a dynasty ruled by the Mongols. Messages to rebel against the Mongols were passed around inside mooncakes.</p>
<p>明清时期盛行 Popularity Peaked in the Ming and Qing Dynasties</p>	<p>明清时期，中秋节和农历新年一样非常受欢迎。中秋节时有很多庆祝活动，如聚餐、赏月、拜月、点燃彩灯笼等。</p> <p>During the Ming Dynasty and the Qing Dynasty, the Mid-Autumn Festival was as popular as Chinese New Year. People participated in many different activities to help celebrate it such as gathering for dinners, appreciating the moon, worshipping the moon and lighting colourful paper lanterns.</p>
<p>2008 年起成为公共假期 Became a Public Holiday from 2008</p>	<p>如今，许多中秋节的传统活动已经没有了，新的过节方式涌现。很多人把它当成是不用上班或学习的公共假期。人们可以与家人或朋友外出旅行，或者晚上在电视上观看中秋节联欢晚会。</p> <p>Nowadays, many traditional activities are disappearing from the Mid-</p>



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	Autumn festivities, but new trends have emerged. Most people regard it simply as a public holiday to escape work and school. People go out traveling with families or friends, or watch the Mid-Autumn Festival Gala on TV at night.
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二、中秋节的传说 Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Legend

关于中秋节最著名的传说就是嫦娥奔月的故事。

The most famous Mid-Autumn Festival story is 'Chang Flying to The Moon'. Please use the below link for the story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMMU1YJadzE>

三、和中秋节有关的诗词 Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Poems

在中国的文学史上，许多诗人赞美中秋夜的纯洁月亮，并表达了自己的感情。下面是两首有名的诗词。

In China's literary history, many poets penned praise to the pure moon of mid-autumn night and gave words to their feelings. The following are some of the best poems.

1. 李白在中秋节用五言诗来表达他的乡愁。Li Bai used four lines, each containing five characters, to express his homesickness during the Moon (Mid-Autumn) Festival.

A tranquil night 静夜思 By Li Bai (李白)	
床前明月光 Chuáng qián míng yuèguāng 疑是地上霜 Yí shì dìshàng shuāng 举头望明月 Jǔ tóu wàng míngyuè 低头思故乡 Dī tóu sī gùxiāng	Before my bed a pool of light. Can it be hoarfrost on the ground? Looking up, I find the moon bright; Bowing, in homesickness I'm drowned. (Translated by Yuanchong Xu)

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2. 苏轼给他的弟弟子由写的中秋寄语。Su Shi wrote a famous Mid-Autumn poem for his brother Su Zhe.

水调歌头 shuǐdiào gē tóu By Su Shi (苏轼)	
明月几时有 Míngyuè jǐshí yǒu 把酒问青天 Bǎjiǔ wèn qīngtiān 不知天上宫阙 Bùzhī tiānshàng gōngquè 今夕是何年 Jīnxī shì hé nián	How rare the moon, so round and clear! With cup in hand, I ask of the blue sky, “I do not know in the celestial sphere What name this festive night goes by?”
我欲乘风归去 Wǒ yù chéng fēng guī qù 又恐琼楼玉宇 Yòu kǒng qióng lóu yù yǔ 高处不胜寒 Gāo chù bùshèng hán 起舞弄清影 Qǐwǔ nòng qīng yǐng 何似在人间 Hé sì zài rénjiān	I want to fly home, riding the air, But fear the ethereal cold up there, The jade and crystal mansions are so high! Dancing to my shadow, I feel no longer the mortal tie.
转朱阁 Zhuǎn zhū gé 低绮户 Dī qǐ hù 照无眠 Zhào wúmián 不应有恨 Bù yìng yǒu hèn 何事长向别时圆 Héshì cháng xiàng bié shí yuán	She rounds the vermilion tower, Stoops to silk-pad doors, Shines on those who sleepless lie. Why does she, bearing us no grudge, Shine upon our parting, reunion deny?
人有悲欢离合 Rén yǒu bēihuānlíhé 月有阴晴圆缺 Yuè yǒu yīn qíng yuán quē 此事古难全 Cǐ shì gǔ nán quán	But rare is perfect happiness-- The moon does wax, the moon does wane, And so men meet and say goodbye.
但愿人长久 Dàn yuàn rén chángjiǔ 千里共婵娟 Qiānlǐ gòng chánjuān	I only pray our life be long, And our souls together heavenward fly! (Translated by Yutang Lin)



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四、任务 Task

1. Zhōngqiūjié qǐyuán yú shénme

中秋节起源于什么？

What is the origin of the Mid-Autumn Festival?

2. chī yuèbǐng de xísú cóng shénme shíhou kāishǐde

吃月饼的习俗从什么时候开始的？

When did the custom of eating mooncakes begin?

3. qǐng dúyídu liǎngshǒu hé Zhōngqiūjié yǒuguān de gǔshī

请读一读两首和中秋节有关的古诗。

Please read the above two poems.